



Australian Government

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

ANDREW FISHER BUILDING
ONE NATIONAL CIRCUIT
BARTON

Reference: MC23-049851

Ms Sally Scoullar
Chair, Speak Up Campaign
speakup4water@gmail.com

Dear Ms Scoullar

Thank you for your letter dated 14 June 2023 to the Hon Anthony Albanese MP, Prime Minister, about the Murray-Darling Basin Plan. The Prime Minister has asked me to reply on his behalf.

I appreciate you sharing your concerns about water recovery under the Murray-Darling Basin Plan. Earlier this year, the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) undertook an open, competitive tender process to purchase water rights from willing sellers in six catchments. The tender focused solely on the 49 gigalitre gap, to meet the Basin Plan's Sustainable Diversion Limits.

Basin Ministers have agreed to consider measures to deliver the Basin Plan in full at their next meeting. A public consultation seeking innovative ideas closed on 3 July 2023. Consultation outcomes will be published at: <https://consult.dcceew.gov.au/ideas-to-deliver-the-basin-plan>.

The Basin Plan was designed to be reviewed every 10 years. In the 2023-24 Budget, the Australian Government committed \$103.7 million for the Murray-Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) to deliver the 2026 Basin Plan Review. In June 2023, the MDBA launched a roadmap to the review, available at: <https://www.mdba.gov.au/publications-and-data/publications/roadmap-2026-basin-plan-review>.

I have copied this letter to DCCEEW and the MDBA, given their responsibilities relevant to the issues you raise.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matthew Strapp', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Matthew Strapp
Assistant Secretary
14 July 2023